

Southeast News

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SEASON'S BLESSINGS



As we enter this special season of the year in which the celebration of Thanksgiving and Advent-Christmas occur, it is a time for reflection and gratitude. Our nation has recently been shocked by the tragic loss of American lives in Beirut and in Grenada. We are reminded that ours is a dangerous world filled with violence and death. People and nations have not yet learned the ways of peace and brotherhood. Freedom and justice are not yet achievements but remain as a challenging vision for Christians to strive toward.

Thanksgiving reminds us that in another hard and difficult time, a small band of Christians paused to give thanks and to seek God's blessings anew. Advent-Christmas reminds us that to a darkened world, God sent the Light of Love to bring new hope and the promise of salvation to all the children of God.

Rejoicing in past blessings, and confident of God's Gracious Presence in Jesus Christ for all the future, we of the Conference staff wish for all of you a Happy Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year.

Emmett O. Floyd
Kathy Martin
Harold A. Blahnik
Virginia McCamey
Joyce B. Myers
David Mullins

OCLL Staff

PILGRIMAGE DEDICATES NEW BUILDING Marietta, GA

Sunday, October 23, 1983, was a special date for Pilgrimage United Church of Christ in Marietta, Ga. They held their Service of Dedication and Celebration at 4:00p.m. Rev. Ira Chace, organizing minister, said it was with deep satisfaction that they are beginning their first year in their own facility.

Over 115 people were on hand to enjoy this occasion. Sharing in the service were Rev. Floyd Carmack, Conference Moderator; Rev. Emmett Floyd, Conference Minister; William Brown, President of Pilgrimage; Fred Russell, Chair of the Turnkey Task Force and Deacon; Rev. Don Nelson, Chair of Outreach for GA/SC Association and interim minister of the fellowship that became Pilgrimage; Rev. Warren Blankenhorn, Associate Conference Minister, who brought the message; Rev. Ira Chace, host minister. (continued on page 3)

REPORT ON THE UCC SOUTHERN REGIONAL MEETING OF WOMEN, MONTEAGLE, TENNESSEE

It is difficult to describe a spectacular mountain view to someone who has never been to the mountain top, and it seems just as impossible to give someone the feeling of the UCC Southern Regional Meeting of Women at Monteagle, Tenn., on October 14-16, 1983. All of us who were there, however, do feel the need to try to share with others the marvelous experience.

(continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

women



From Left: Rev. Adelaide Catanha, Mrs. Raquel Daniel of Angola, Rev. Joyce B. Myers, Office for Church Life and Leadership, Atlanta

When you put 200 women together, there is bound to be a lot of talking, but with over 200 UCC women a lot more went on along with the talking - real listening, sharing, loving, caring, and a definite sense of community and sisterhood grew. And yes, a deep sense of sadness and concern for our nation and world was experienced. This was brought about by the presence of two Angolan women from a sister church in that war-torn country and by the facts presented to us by Gretchen Eick, Associate, Office for Church in Society, on the Nuclear Arms Race.

Our faith was enhanced by the Bible Study and Worship led by Ann Asper Wilson, Eden Theological Seminary. Ann gave fresh meaning to Hebrews 12:1-2..."Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses let us lay aside every weight and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race...looking to Jesus..."

Having listed our personal cloud of witnesses, and confessed our own weights and sins, she prepared us to run our own race through "our own wilderness" with stronger faith and courage.

Workshops on all manner of concerns from single living to peace were offered on Saturday. Having to choose just two to attend was difficult, and trying to squeeze in everything the leaders had to say and everything the participants had to share was at times frustrating; however, everyone received something to help them and to take back home to share with others... thanks to the excellent planning of the leaders.

The final worship service with Communion was the celebration of our community together. The power and sincerity of women sharing together part of the Pilgrimage was a moving and enriching experience. An experience one would wish everyone could share.

We left Sunday proud of the UCC and our leadership, humble to be in such a company of pilgrims and determined "to strengthen our weak knees" and continue on the Pilgrimage. We were also anxious to share with others our experiences.

See you in Milwaukee!

Michelle Ann Sabine



Monteagle Planning Team: left to right

Virginia McCamey, Office for Church Life & Leadership; Trudy Braun, SE Conference; Barbara Everett, Local Committee; Dolores Rawles, Southern Conference; Betsie Tremant, South Central Conference; Rev. Joyce Myers, Office for Church Life and Leadership; Ruby Engstrom, Florida Conference.
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PILGRIMAGE DEDICATION (continued)

The choir with brand new robes and the chancel with new furniture greatly enhanced the spirit of the day. Rev. Blankenhorn drew from the words of The Acts of the Apostles, chapter 5: "...for if this plan or this understanding is of men, it will fail; but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them..." He reminded Pilgrimage that this is our "Commencement".

The new building, designed to take advantage of passive solar energy gives a feeling of openness and warmth. The chancel is enhanced by an alcove containing a large rough-hewn cross made from ash trees from the property.

Rev. Chace agrees with Rev. Blankenhorn that this is but the beginning: "This first unit of Pilgrimage UCC is truly a gratifying experience, and as we give praises to God so indeed we also give deep thanks to the many people, both in Pilgrimage and beyond, who by covenant enabled a vision to become a reality."

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Conference Calendar

- November 1 - All Saints Day
- 4 - World Community Day
- 11 - Veteran's Day
- 12 - Executive Council Meeting
- 13 - Stewardship Sunday
- 20 - Heritage Sunday
- Thanksgiving Sunday
- Bible Sunday
- 20-27 - National Bible Week
- 24 - Thanksgiving Day
- 27 - First Sunday in Advent
- December 2 - E. Alabama Christmas Dinner
- 2-3 - Women's Commission Meeting, Atlanta
- 10 - Human Rights Day, N. Alabama Christmas Dinner
- 17 - Birthday of the Prophet
- 24 - Christmas Eve
- 25 - Christmas Day
- 31 - New Year's Eve

CENTRAL ALABAMA ASSOCIATION MEETING

The Central Alabama Association of Congregational Christian Churches (United Church of Christ) held their annual meeting on October 16, 1983, at the East Tallassee Church, East Tallassee, Alabama. The theme of the meeting was "The Year of the Bible."

Special music was presented by the East Tallassee Church Choir and Rev. Norman Steinig who rendered a solo.

The devotional was given by Rev. Randy Fralic, in which he elaborated on the theme of the meeting.

Rev. Warren Blankenhorn, Associate Conference Minister, was introduced and reported a good year with everyone working together. After nine years as Area Minister and Associate Conference Minister he expressed hope for the opportunity for Christian Ministry.

The meeting for next year will be held on the third Sunday in October, 1984, at Watson Chapel Church in Eclectic, Alabama.

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ALA/TENN YOUTH PLANNING MEETING HELD

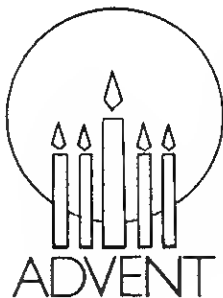
The Ala/Tenn Association held its fall youth planning day on October 8th at the Belvidere United Church of Christ in Belvidere, TN. There were approximately 25 persons in attendance representing Belvidere, Brookmeade, Nashville, and the Huntsville United Church.

The group evaluated the previous years' activities and outlined the following general purposes of their work: 1) to plan Ala/TN youth program activities; 2) to effectively communicate these plans to all youth groups in the 2 state area; 3) to represent youth interests at the Association Executive Council and Committee Meetings.

Three "Reach-Out Days" were scheduled: Nov. 6, Jan. 22, and March 18. Currently active youth groups will visit less active youth groups/churches, to encourage their participation in the Association Youth Program activities. Three Weekend Pop-ins were planned: 1) Belvidere-Nov. 18-20; 2) Huntsville-Feb. 3-5, 3) Sweetwater-March 30-April 1st.

The group again requested that there be a conference-wide youth retreat along with the Southeast Conference Annual Meeting. Their final accomplishment of the day was possibly the most significant. A permanent youth council was established-composed of two youth representatives and one advisor from each active church. The Council will continue program planning and implementation throughout the year; and will select representatives to the Association, Executive Council and Committee Meetings. The Rev. Dan Rosemergy, Coordinator, and Dan Ramey, Brookmeade Youth Coordinator, assisted with preparations for the day and will provide staff support to the Council.

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NATIONAL EVENTS HAPPENING IN 1984

***The United Church Board for Homeland Ministries is sponsoring a second National Youth Event for July 29-August 2, 1984, at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. More than 2000 young people are expected to participate. Workshops on a wide variety of topics are being planned as well as worship, recreational activities, and entertainment. Registration for the 1984 National Youth Event begins December 1st and ends April 15th. All registration will be handled by the conference office.

***"Women in the Spirit: Called and Free" are called to the UCC National Meeting for Women to be held July 12-16, 1984, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Over 2,500 women are to gather to worship, learn, celebrate, and share their stories in quilts. Advance registration through March 31, 1984, is \$50. Housing will be available in a range of prices from \$14. and up. For more information on the meeting and the quilting exhibition, contact the conference office.

***The UCC Office for Church in Society is hosting a national consultation in Washington, DC, January 24-26, 1984. This consultation, "Economic Justice for Women," will focus on economic justice issues for women in poverty and will bring together organizations of women in poverty, church women, and women active in women's movements. A coalition of women's groups across race, class, economic and religious lines will be built to develop a national public policy agenda with strategies for achieving economic justice for women. For more information, contact Judy Logan-White, Office for Church in Society, UCC, 110 Maryland Avenue NE, Washington, DC 20002.

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CHRISTMAS FUND...

Ever wonder where clergy and clergy families can get help in special times of need? One important way we can reach out to retired ministers and active ministers facing emergencies is through the United Church of Christ Christmas Fund. "BEAR FRUIT IN ACTIVE GOODNESS" is the theme of this year's Christmas Fund, from Paul's letter to the Colossians calling Christians of his time to active goodness. We in the UCC can respond to this call through the UCC Christmas Fund.



VIRGINIA McCAMEY RETIRES

After almost six years of service as part-time secretary for the Southeast Conference and secretary for the Southern Regional Office for Church Life and Leadership, Mrs. Virginia McCamey retires at the end of the year. She will now be able to devote full-time to the many interests she and her husband, Frank, enjoy. We will miss her bright smile and many talents, but wish her a most happy and fruitful "next chapter" of her life. God Bless!

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EAST ALABAMA ASSOCIATION MEETING

A well-attended, enthusiastic annual meeting took place in First Congregational Christian Church in Phenix City, Alabama, on October 22nd. Moderator Louise Cox presided. Reports were received from the various committees. A new vice-moderator, Rev. Don Scovill, was elected, and the licensed ministers were presented for renewal. Speakers included the Rev. Dr. Walstein Snyder of the Elon Home for Children in North Carolina, and the Rev. Sandye Mullins of the Southeast Conference staff. An interesting video tape of the General Synod meeting in Pittsburg was played which had been produced by the Rev. Steve Gray, formerly of the Southeast Conference. It was a good day of fellowship, inspiration and re-dedication to the work of our Lord in the East Alabama Association.

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STATEMENT BY AVERY D. POST, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST.....

on the Destruction of Korean Airlines
Flight 007...

The destruction of Korean Airlines Flight 007 reveals what we have all known through our fears: that peace is fragile, that the climate across the globe is characterized by distrust rather than trust and that there is a desperate need for the nations of the world to learn to keep faith with one another.

It is essential from a moral point of view that the full truth concerning the tragedy over the Sea of Japan be sought and told. The destruction of a commercial airplane by action of the Soviet Government must stand under world condemnation. The USSR owes nothing less than a profound apology to the international community.

As our hearts break over the loss of human life and our minds search for even a thread of rationality in the face of such a hideous event, it is absolutely crucial, again for moral reasons, that we not let this latest development subvert and possibly destroy the all-too-modest gains in arms control negotiations or other efforts of trust-building between the nations. Such "linkage" has in the past been fatal to the ratification of SALT II and other peace making efforts.

Faced with these new frustrations in peace making, the United Church of Christ will redouble its activities to build trust. We recommit ourselves to show that peace with justice is God's will for our time and to defeat such enemies of the peace process as the escalation of global militarization, the development of and placement of new weapons by the super powers, the approval of the MX by Congress and the placement of Cruise and Pershing II missiles in Europe.

The United Church of Christ expresses its deepest condolences to the families in our country and throughout the world who are grieving over the loss of their loved ones. At the same time, we call on all Christians, including Christians in the Soviet Union and across the globe, to urge the spirit of restraint upon their governments, so that such a tragedy can never happen again.

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NORTH ALABAMA ASSOCIATION MEETING

The North Alabama Association's Annual Meeting was held at Old Liberty Grove Congregational Church in Town Creek, AL. on Saturday, October 1, 1983.

The Rev. John William Estes, former resident of Duxbury, Mass., the site of Plymouth Rock, addressed the meeting, along with Rev. Emmett O. Floyd, Conference Minister, and Rev. Sandye Mullins, Conference Intern.

Rev. Roger Loosier of First Congregational Church in Caddo was elected the new Moderator; the new Vice-Moderator is Rev. Braxton Parker of Old Liberty Grove.

During the Installation of Officers, Rev. Warren Blankenhorn, Associate Conference Minister, challenged all officers of the Association to devote more of their time and talent to God's mission for the UCC in Northern Alabama.

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GA/SC ASSOCIATION MEETING

The GA/SC Association held its annual meeting on October 28-29, 1983, at the Midway Congregational Church at Midway, GA. The theme of the meeting was "More Churches, More Members for God's Mission." Ms. Lillie Gillard, Moderator presided. Reports were received including a special celebration for the completion and dedication of the facilities of the two New Church Starts in Marietta and Lilburn, Georgia. The new moderator is Henry C. Weaver.

After the meeting, those in attendance had a chance to view the old Midway Church and the Heritage Room of the historic Dorchester Academy.

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ALABAMA-TENNESSEE ASSOCIATION MEETING

The theme of "What is the UCC Doing in the South?...Our Traditions and Our Future" received an enthusiastic response from close to 100 ministers, delegates and visitors at the AL/TN Assoc. Annual Meeting. The meeting was held at The Church of the Savior, UCC in Knoxville, TN on September 16-17.

On Friday evening, the opening session included presentations by 3 churches in the Association, highlighting events of the past year in these churches. This celebration of the work of the church was followed by special reports from UCC related projects.

On Saturday morning, the business meeting provided an opportunity to hear reports from the officers and committees and to review the 1984 budget. Two motions of interest were passed. The first increased the Assoc. dues to \$4 per member. The second increased the appointment time of the Coordinator to 1/3 time with a related increase in salary.

Dr. Herman Norton, professor of Church History at Vanderbilt University and an ordained Disciples of Christ Minister, delivered the key note address.

After afternoon workshops, an Ecclesiastical Council was held to examine Leanne McCall Tigert on her fitness to be ordained for the Christian Ministry. She was unanimously approved and will be ordained in January following completion of her Master of Divinity degree at Andover-Newton.

The 2-day session provided an opportunity for fellowship, exchange of ideas, and a new sense of commitment to the UCC.

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A note of reminder:

At the 14th General Synod it was voted that the wording of O.C.W.M. (basic support) be change to:

OUR CHURCHES WIDER MISSION

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SOUTH ALABAMA-NORTHWEST FLORIDA MEETING

The South Alabama-Northwest Florida Association's Annual Meeting was held at First Congregational Christian Church in Andalusia, AL, on October 8, 1983. Outgoing moderator, Rev. Elmer B. Carnes presided.

Rev. Woody Clark, Pyron Chapel in Baker, FL, was elected Moderator; Rev. Thomas "Pete" Courtney of Good Hope in Baker was elected Vice-Moderator.

Rev. Warren Blankenhorn, Associate Conference Minister, installed the officers and challenged all new officers to dedicate more of their time and talents to God's work in their association.

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1984 SPRING MINI-CAMP

The 1984 Spring Mini-Camp will be held again this year at Laguna Beach, Florida (near Panama City) on Friday through Sunday, May 4-5-6. If you would like to be put on the mailing list for this event, just send your name and address and your church's name and address to:

Spring Mini-Camp
Post Office Box 773
Phenix City, Alabama 36867

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HUNGER ACTION FUND...

Saint Augustine said, "Find out how much God has given you and from it take what you need; the remainder which you do not require is needed by others."

The United Church of Christ Hunger Action Fund is one way in which you can respond to St. Augustine's pleas and directly affect the lives of hungry people in the United States and throughout the world. Through the Hunger Action Fund, we provide grants to local hunger-relief agencies here in the U.S. This is but one of the ways in which your gift will enable us to take action against hunger.

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LETTER FROM UCC MISSIONARIES IN ZAMBIA

In many of our homes the Advent Wreath is now the centerpiece of our Worship scene. It is one of the ways to prepare for this Advent season. It is a time when we purposely search the scriptures to bring anew the birth of the Christ child and its full meaning to the world.

The holidays take on new meaning for us as we prepare our celebration, away from family and friends. There is also an absence of that "white stuff" we dream of! However, we look forward to the renewal that the celebration of Christmas brings each year and contemplate our life in the Kingdom as we perceive it.

Thanksgiving, the American prelude to Christmas/time, helps to remind us that we are indeed privileged. God is creating daily; the beauty of the earth alone makes each day a blessing. We are thankful for our good health and energy to carry on the work we have undertaken, and with the help of good nutritional food, God gives us strength!

The holidays are different in other ways. One happy noticeable one is the lack of commercialism. The stores in Lusaka have a few decorations and the streets will have a few banners, but it is minimal in its extent. The churches will have their holy celebrations and in a few homes there will be gift exchanges; but when daily you are concerned about provisions for tomorrow, gift giving pales in importance.

We come to this Holiday Season as expectantly and eagerly as children. We try to forget the hustle, bustle, and busyness of the world surrounding us. We approach this birthday of the Christ child with humble, thankful, and joyfilled hearts. Our prayer for you is that the peace He came proclaiming may be possible in each of your hearts and in the world in which we live, as foretold by those first angels.

May His Peace Be Yours,
Burl & Aloha Wyckoff

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NEWS AND NOTES

Rev. Edwin P. Benton was installed as pastor of First United Church of Christ on September 18, 1983. (Sweetwater, TN)

Mark W. Frey and Marguerite B. Frey were commissioned for service in the Habitat for Humanity ministry, Kinshasa, Zaire, Africa, for a minimum of two years.

Leanne Tigert's ordination service is planned for Sunday, January 29, 1984, at Brookmeade Congregational Church, UCC, in Nashville.

Central Congregational, UCC in Atlanta will welcome back their minister, Rev. William T. Scott, Jr. in the end of November. Rev. Scott has been on sabbatical, studying at Cambridge University in England.

East Alabama donated a truckload of clothing and household items to the Robbins Parish Congregational Thrift Shop, Robbins, TN.

Rev. Ralph Galt is serving as interim minister at Barton Chapel and Glen Mary Congregational Christian in Tennessee.

Rev. Richard Woodward is serving as interim minister of First Congregational Church of Savannah, Ga.

Ginny Schaeffer, President of the Youth Fellowship at First United Church of Christ, Belvidere, TN, was named second runner-up in the Franklin County Junior Miss Pageant on August 29th. She also received the Spirit of Junior Miss Award. Congratulations, Ginny!

The East Alabama-West Georgia Men's Fellowship has been to Marietta, Georgia again to lend a "helping hand" at Pilgrimage UCC, as they prepared to move into their new building.

SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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